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THE PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

APRIL 10, 1941

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Pennsylvania Federation of
Historical Societies.
Annual meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Dr. Roy F. Nichols, president, opened the sessions of the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies in the Ball Room of the Penn-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg, beginning at ten o'clock. The purpose of the occasion, as stated by the president, was to meet old friends, renew acquaintances, and to gain new ideas concerning history and to make them effective in the community. Dr. Isaac D. App, president of the Historical Society of Dauphin County, was presented and extended a cordial greeting on behalf of his organization and welcomed the delegates to the city of Harrisburg. It was stated by Doctor App that the Dauphin County Society had been endowed with a new headquarters, the historic John Harris Mansion on Front Street. Delegates were invited to attend the last open house at the present home at Nine South Front Street and to visit in the future the new headquarters.

Doctor Nichols congratulated the society and its president on its good fortune. The secretary was asked to present a report on new members to the Federation.

New Members

Mr. Stevens reported that while the list of new societies was not as large as the preceding year, the roll as of the present date numbered ninety-two of the principal historical and patriotic societies of the Commonwealth and represented in their membership as societies and organizations at least thirty thousand people in Pennsylvania interested in the history of the state. Five new members, two of whom represented organizations which



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had rejoined the Federation, had affiliated since the last meeting. The roll of the new organizations was called by the secretary as follows: The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Putman King Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Cameron County Historical Society, and the rejoining members, the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Alpine Club.

Committees

The president announced members of committees to function in connection with the meeting. Two committees, previously selected, would adjudge the various activity reports and publications. Appointees to the committee judging reports of accomplishment included Mr. Bruce A. Hunt, chairman, Mr. Merle H. Deardorff, and Dr. Frederick Tilburg. For the committee on publications Miss Nellie B. Stevens was selected as chairman assisted by Dr. Oliver Heckman and Mr. Gordon Alderfer. Miss Frances Dorrance headed the committee on resolutions which included Mr. Edward F. Reimer, Mr. Charles Young, and Mrs. William C. Hensyl. Nominating committee for the election of officers consisted of Mr. Ross Pier Wright, chairman, Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, and Dr. A. E. Martin. In further announcing the appointment of committees, President Nichols emphasized the reviving of a practice, too long delinquent, of the organization and creation of a Legislative Committee which would present the needs of Pennsylvania history before the General Assembly. In this worthwhile endeavor the Federation was able to secure the service of Mr. Charles Young and to serve with him the following: Frank W. Melvin, A. Boyd Hamilton, the Hon. Paul N. Schaeffer, J. Martin Stroup, Merle H. Deardorff, and John McKirdy.

Doctor Nichols announced certain materials, including A Partial Bibliography of the Archaeology of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States and a mimeographed article prepared by Mr. J. Martin Stroup entitled "Sharing History for National Security," were provided for distribution among the delegates. Publications entered in the contest were on display as well as a few presented by societies for this purpose.

Activities Reports

The secretary announced it had been the custom for the past two or three years to present a series of awards to historical societies which had distinguished themselves for outstanding activity. This practice has arisen in view of the increasing membership of the Federation which had become so large that it was no longer possible to continue to call upon every member society for a report. Letters were sent to society officials stating if they cared to do so, their society could enter in the activities contest. The committee judging the competition has already been set up and submitted written reports covering the principal accomplishment during the past year of the competing organizations. Oral reports will be presented and upon a basis of these and the written ones, already forwarded to the committee, an award will be made to the local historical society which in the opinion of the judges has contributed most to historical endeavor during the past year. Following this announcement, representatives of local and county societies were called upon to submit verbal reports.

Lancaster County Society

Representing the Lancaster County Historical Society, Mr. Luther Heisey commented on its activities. The outstanding forward step was the opening of the building to the public for three stated periods in each week. A librarian is in attendance to assist in historical and genealogical research.

The compilation of gravestone records from the old cemeteries of the county, including many translated from the German, is rapidly progressing. The city of Lancaster celebrated "Democracy Days," from the birthday of Lincoln to the birthday of Washington. The local society aided by a display of Lincoln relics and mementoes, and by a program appropriate to the event. A complete index of the publications of the society was compiled during the past year.

Mifflin County Historical Society

Mr. J. Martin Stroup, representing the Mifflin County Historical Society, presented a resume of the year's activities. The society's policy of making available to the public all facilities of the organization without qualification of membership, and of welcoming visitors without suggestion of admission charge or contribution was continued during the past year. Not satisfied with reaching only those who sought the use of the society's collections, there has been a systematic program throughout the year to present local history, authentic, yet interestingly written for the benefit of every citizen of the county willing to spend a half hour a week reading a column in his local paper. Through this weekly feature in the local press more than 100 columns of historical matter were published.

Carrying out its objectives of "encouraging and making possible the teaching of more Mifflin county history in the public schools," the society this past year held its third annual county-wide historical essay contest, sponsored jointly by the organization, the local chapters of the D. A. R. and S. A. R. Students from all competing schools made use of the library in their research work. When plans for the building of a scale model of Fort Granville, Mifflin county fort of French and Indian War days, had reached the place for actual construction to begin it was decided that it should be done, if possible, by local vocational high school students. It would thus provide

not only practice in wood-working but a practical lesson in local history and would tie the schools and historical society together with a mutual interest such as can only be developed when a joint enterprise is attempted and carried to successful conclusion. It is now in the society's museum, the most important of its displays, if interest manifest by the visiting public is any criterion.

Continuing its efforts to coordinate the programs of all local civic organizations with common aims in specific historical projects and to enlist the aid of all groups in the community in preserving and marking historic shrines, the society attained a considerable measure of success the past year. Its encouragement was the dominant factor in the completion of the restoration and beautification of the Jacks Creek Stone Arch Bridge, 125 year old structure. The day this scenic and historic shrine is dedicated, May 16, another feature of the community's celebration will be the unveiling of a marker.

Two dinner meetings were held when civic organizations met with the society at its invitation as part of the program of community-wide education in the aims and objects of the organization. Plans are completed for an intensive county-wide membership campaign. Most valuable acquisition during the year included 110 bound volumes of local newspaper files presented by Mifflin County Commissioners. These are being moved to the library as fast as facilities for their storage and protection can be arranged. The society now has practically a complete coverage of local news of the past 120 years in its files.

The Mifflin county organization has endeavored to make full use of government aid available through the various work relief agencies. The

National Youth Administration contributed in the making of tables and chairs for the library, society financial responsibility being limited to providing the material. Throughout the year the Adult Education and Recreation Program of the WPA has provided an attendant for the library-museum, who is on duty the hours it is open five days a week. Cooperation with all existing community organizations whose programs touch matters of mutual interest has been the continued effort of the society to the end that coordination of effort bring about desired results which might otherwise be unattained.

Columbia County Historical Society

One of the youngest historical groups in the state, the Columbia County Historical Society, presented its activities through its president, Mr. Harry Barton. The main objective of the Columbia group is to teach its youth the history of the county. To accomplish this purpose a program of "picture and story" was inaugurated. The first enterprise covers the history of milling and includes 72 lantern slides on the subject. A paper was prepared in connection with this program and later the material will be placed in book form. The story and picture program of the society includes history of churches, schools, banking, farming, and many others in which the public will be interested. The Columbia County Society has shown, without fee, its project to any group, and to date patriotic and civic groups have met the idea with much enthusiasm. Rotary clubs, State Teacher College, and similar organizations have called upon the society for this service. The Boy and Girl Scouts have aided in the research and each troop has been given a specific undertaking.

A new venture for the society has been the publication of a "News Sheet," aimed to keep members fully informed of the organization's activities.

There has been no fixed time for distribution and the two issues already published have brought many expressions of encouragement. It is believed this enterprize will be continued as it has met with enthusiasm in its early stages. Future plans, for which committees have been appointed, include summer trips to points of historic interest and a May meeting at which time all pictures collected will be shown to members and their friends.

During intermission Mr. Barton gave an exhibit of the lantern slides collected to date.

Bradford County Historical Society

Mr. Leo Wilt, president of the Bradford County Historical Society, presented a report of its activities. At the beginning of the year, the officers of the society felt there should be a larger field of historical activity. A three-point program was set up and adopted. First, to interest people in the history of the county; second, to urge for the teaching of local and state history in all of our public schools, and third, to interest the young people of the county in the work of the society. The first endeavor was to enlist the services of the local newspaper editors. To spread further this interest in local history lectures were given before patriotic and civic groups, Boy Scouts, and similar organizations.

Through the sponsorship of the society, the Yale University Photoplays "Chronicles of America" were shown to the students of the Towanda High School. These were fifteen in number and were shown to the students in the afternoon and the public in the evening. The average attendance has been over three hundred. The faculty reports that the showing of these films has been of great help in the classroom. As a result of the interest shown by the Bradford county youth in historical films, the society has offered cash prizes for papers not exceeding three hundred words on one of the titles in

the series. The success of this course in Towanda has encouraged the society to continue its efforts for similar action in the other high schools. An outline has been prepared for the use of the teachers for use in the schools. To date nearly five hundred pupils of the Bradford county schools have visited the society museum. Much interest was manifested in its collection. Lectures on Indian and early pioneer settlers have been presented and special exhibits arranged to interest the school children.

Work has been started on a card index of soldiers of all wars who have lived in Bradford county. The Daughters of the Revolution are assisting in the gathering of information concerning the veterans of the Revolution. Through the services of a very capable WPA librarian, all the books of the library have been classified and catalogued. Membership of the society has increased to 130 without any drive. Plans have been laid for junior membership at twenty-five cents, and it is hoped that this may develop future workers among the youth.

Chester County Historical Society

Mr. George Norman Highley outlined the outstanding accomplishments of the Chester County Historical Society. The new fireproof addition to the society headquarters is near completion and into its basement has been moved the collection of early American industries in compartments especially designed for display. The shelving, counters, and equipment for the post office and country store exhibits have been obtained for the society and will be installed in the near future. The library is being equipped with an improved air conditioned heating system and it is expected that within the next month the first floor will be practically completed. It is hoped the entire building will be ready for occupancy by the end of the year

Since the society has been in its own building at 225 North High Street, West Chester, its doors have been open to the public every day except Sunday and available on Wednesday evenings. A visitor will find three full-time employees ready and willing to give efficient assistance to the research worker. Voluntary hosts and hostesses assist in receiving visitors.

A committee for the preservation of covered bridges in the county has been appointed and the County Commissioners and other officials have been contacted with worthwhile results. Six bound volumes and 6,068 issues of Chester county newspapers have been added to the society's collection during the year. The librarian has been indexing the local items in early newspapers and this work has resulted in about 3,500 cards which have been added to the card files. Microfilms of some of the early county newspapers, manuscripts, and books in other depositories have been obtained and now can be seen in the new microfilm reading machine.

Sixteen large glass show cases containing the special exhibits of the society are constantly being changed and when possible made appropriate to some occasion or holiday. The registry indicates that thirty groups of school children, averaging about twenty students to a group, accompanied by their teacher have been shown the collections of the society, and this does not include the many school students who individually take advantage of the educational opportunities offered.

During 1940, the society received 2,591 inches of space in the county newspapers. Within the last year the Chester County Historical Society has made great strides forward toward a fuller realization of serving the purposes for which it was organized. When in the near future the new fireproof addition is entirely open and utilized, another great epoch in the annals of the society will be achieved and Chester county will have a historical society with a

library and museum building, historical collections, and education program equalled by few in the state.

Berks County Historical Society

Emphasizing the Development Program of the Berks County Historical Society, Mr. J. Bennet Nolan narrated on the organization's accomplishments. The recent membership drive sponsored by the society was highly successful. An increase from 750 to 1,650 members and \$22,000 collected to be used for the employment of a curator and an enlarged educational program through the schools and other channels were the results. On July 1, 1940, Dr. Gurney W. Clemens, the newly appointed curator, assumed the duties of his position. The Development Program was inaugurated and improvements in the society program begun.

On May 16, the society will dedicate a miniature of Penn Square in Reading. The model is sixteen by twelve feet and correct in every detail. It is the result of a year of study and research.

The Historical Society of York County

Mr. Henry J. Young, Director of the York County Historical Society, summarized the activities of the past year. At some future date the society is to receive from the estate of the late Dr. Joseph S. Miller upwards of \$125,000 for the erection of a new building and its maintenance.

During the year 4,426 visitors, including 1,290 researchers from schools, colleges, universities, government agencies, and elsewhere, registered at the headquarters in York. The staff has made especial practice of borrowing and copying theses and dissertations that are particularly pertinent to south-central Pennsylvania. Considerable progress has been made in indexing county histories and preparing abstracts for lists of taxables. Through the use of microfilm process more than 6,000 pages of manuscripts not in the possession of the society were copied, including some six hundred pages of York County Revolu-

tionary material in the Archives Division of the State Library, and twenty-five series of church, school, tax archives in many different places. Total membership of the society to date is 1,134.

Mr. Young pointed out that at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association held in Cleveland in 1897 the late John Franklin Jameson defined the field of work of state and local historical societies in the classic term, "American history locally exemplified." It is difficult to know what is history and what non-local materials should be collected, but with this phrase as a guide much can be accomplished. Possibly when Professor Jameson considered the local historical society he thought of it only as a scholar would, as a preservative for the local source materials, the raw materials of scholarship. That is indeed one of our great means of usefulness; but it is also part of our duty to provide a cultural influence for the community, to supply the background of more general history which will lead the antiquarian subtly away through his highly localized studies into their broader contexts and interpretation.

With this double mission, collecting local history for the scholar and interpreting American history to Mr. Everyman, each according to his lights, the society has its hands full.

The Lackawanna Historical Society

Through its secretary, Mrs. Ethelyn D. Keese, an activities report of the Lackawanna Historical Society was presented. Many improvements have been made at the Lackawanna Historical Society. The room at the Everhart Museum has undergone a complete change in many ways. From a cramped, dusty condition, it has been restored to a spacious well-lit headquarters. All material that had no relationship whatsoever to a historical society was disposed and museum articles were repaired for display purposes. A systematic arrangement of books, maps, newspapers, and pamphlets was made, with bookshelves and cases rebuilt and

painted to contain them. Genealogical books were placed in readiness for anyone who desired to use them, and historical data were arranged that they could be obtained at a moment's notice.

One of the outstanding undertakings at present is a complete cataloguing of every book, map, atlas, pamphlet, photograph, and newspaper in the society's possession. An index, understandable not only to the librarian, but also the layman, will be the result. Another enterprise of equal importance is the consolidation of all known facts concerning a certain subject into a complete pamphlet. The civic interest in the society since its renovation has been noticed by the influx of visitors. In the year 1940 to 41 there were 7,196 visitors.

On April 25, 1940, the society, together with the Century Club, conducted a dinner and historical program which was attended by over one hundred guests. The 100th anniversary of the city of Scranton proved to be one of the outstanding events of the year. The Lackawanna Historical Society joined forces with civic, patriotic, and religious groups to create a program of unlimited interest. Nearly 40,000 people were attracted to view the centennial parade which preceded the society's historical exhibit, housed in the Scranton home, and the exercises that took place there. Over 3,000 people viewed the society's exhibition which told the story of the foundation of Scranton by means of photographs, maps, old newspapers, and many interesting and valuable museum articles.

To preserve for posterity one of the world's famous natural phenomena, the glacial pothole at Archbald, the society presented it, together with an acre of land, to Lackawanna county in order that it be dedicated as Glacial Pothole Park. Upon the receipt of a deed, covering 140 acres of land donated by other sources, the County Commissioners passed a resolution endorsing the Glacial Pothole Park project.

At present the society is contemplating Scranton's diamond jubilee celebration of its incorporation as a city. Plans are under way for another gala affair which will equal, if not surpass, the spectacular centennial celebration.

Tioga Point Museum and Historical Society

Activities of the Tioga Point Museum and Historical Society were reported by Dr. Elsie Murray. The Centennial of Stephen Foster's schooling at Athens, and the activities connected with it, were the chief pre-occupation of the Museum. The Foster celebration began with an "All Foster Concert" by Lorraine Foster, folk-singer, and continued with a quiz, given in the local Junior High Schools, concerning Foster's music and his life while here. Students having high scores in the quiz were invited to a talk on Foster, which was illustrated with the Museum's set of slides, and recordings of some of Foster's spirited airs. Early editions of many of Stephen Foster's songs, and a number of the text books used in the academy a hundred years ago have been on display during the year. Through the efforts of the Museum "A Foster Hour" was broadcasted.

An eight-page narrative covering Foster's schooling, and the playing of his first composition, "The Tioga Waltz," was prepared by the Museum, mimeographed by the Athens High School, and distributed to the school rooms of the 14-year-old students. A brochure covering Foster's life in Athens, with a supplement on the construction of the North Branch Canal, is in press.

Finally funds have been raised and preparations made, looking toward the erection of a marker on the site of the academy, commemorating the Foster incident. On this occasion the "Tioga Waltz" will be featured.

Photostats of two letters written by General Lafayette, shortly before he came to America, to residents of Bradford county, were acquired by the Museum.

Reports from societies participating in the Activities Contest were concluded with a brief analysis of plans of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania presented by President Robert Garland, and the meeting adjourned until the Luncheon Session. Statewide groups and other societies requesting to report were heard following the luncheon.

LUNCHEON SESSION

Dr. Roy F. Nichols presided at the luncheon session. The Roll Call of societies was presented and the president was pleased to note the large representation from several groups, including eleven members present from the Fort Washington Historical Society.

Distinguished guests were introduced by the president and brief remarks presented. Dr. Alfred Keator, newly appointed State Librarian, emphasized the close association between libraries and historical societies. Attention was called to the promotion of historical projects which could be gained through a cooperative program. It was further stated the State Library was vitally interested in improving the facilities of its Archives Division. Dr. Francis B. Haas, Superintendent of Public Instruction, commented upon the importance of local history as contributing to the development of sound patriotism and good citizenship. He challenged the delegates to secure a wider representation of societies and bring additional attendants at the next year's meeting. Members of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission were introduced by Doctor Haas with favorable comment upon their services.

Statewide Society Reports

Dr. William Reitzel, Director of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, commented on the spirit of cooperation that had been built up among the local societies. He stated during the coming year his organization wishes to

consider, in cooperation with the local groups of the state, ways and means of making its collections and facilities most useful on the largest possible scale. The society is improving the technique of cataloguing its material and has a photographic department which can be expanded. It is considering setting up a department of repairs and preservation and is prepared to increase the service it can render to research workers and students and the public in general. The problem of making these services available is not an easy one. It involves seeing how the organization and administration of the society can best be fitted in with the organization and administration of the Federation. It involves, lastly, a question of financing such services in so far as they imply any additions to the fixed overhead of the society. Doctor Reitzel suggested these matters be examined and a plan for dealing with them emerge from the joint thinking of all the societies; that this question be considered throughout the coming year -- first, within the membership of the local societies, later by a committee of the Federation, and finally, in the form of a report that can be the ground for planned action.

Mrs. William Lingelbach reported for the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. The organization through the efforts of the Grumblethorpe Committee of Germantown received the title in September, 1940 to "Grumblethorpe," home of the Wister family, dating from 1744. The society is anxious to assist, through its knowledge and experience, in furthering preservation movements which might be sponsored by any county society. Attention was called to the Philadelphia Pilgrimage, sponsored by this organization, to take place on May 5 to 8 inclusive, and an invitation extended to all historical societies present. Mrs. Lingelbach reported also for the Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Fifty years ago the society was founded in Philadelphia and the "Golden Anniversary" will be celebrated in Washington at a meeting of the

National Council. The Pennsylvania Society is a statewide group with over one thousand members and has many fields of activity. One important interest is its cooperation in the restoration of "Wheatland," home of President Buchanan. The society is undertaking the furnishing of the "Harriet Lane Memorial Bedroom," in honor of the President's niece.

Two bronze tablets were erected by the society, one commemorating Count Zinzendorf's missionary work among the Indians and the other honoring Samuel Powel.

A report of the activities of The Welcome Society of Pennsylvania was presented by Henry Paul Busch. The society's meeting at Pennsbury in June, 1940 inspired one of the guests to undertake the construction of a miniature model of the Manor House. This was exhibited at the Philadelphia Flower Show and attracted much attention. During the exhibit the society provided and distributed six thousand circulars containing a brief historical note of Pennsbury and a map showing the location of the property.

Mr. Henry Paul Busch, reporting for the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, called attention to its several outstanding accomplishments for 1940. First, a printed fifty-one page inventory of the society's effects under the title of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania As Seen By Its Shelf List and Publications appeared in the last number of the Publications. A second accomplishment is that sponsored and financed by its Associate Committee of Women. Known as the Mrs. Harry Rogers Genealogical Collection, covering a wide territory and long years of effort, thirty-nine bound folio volumes of approximately four hundred pages each, are housed in an all embracing steel cabinet of their own. Another achievement, the result of an agreement between Director Reitzel of The Historical Society and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, is an interesting four months correspondence experiment or "Information Please" to ascertain the

most efficient method of handling the bulk of correspondence from the general public, pouring into both societies.

Dr. C. C. Crittenden, Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission and featured speaker for the meeting, then addressed the gathering on "History for the People."¹

AFTERNOON SESSION

The panel discussion led by Mr. Stevens on the theme "How the Historical Society May Serve the Public" will be treated later in a mimeographed bulletin and distributed among the societies. A complete account of the remarks presented by Mr. J. Martin Stroup, Dr. Gurney W. Clemens, Mr. Henry Young, and Mr. Leo Wilt will be included.

DINNER SESSION

Dr. Roy F. Nichols presided at the Dinner Session.

Report of Activity and Publications Committees

Mr. Bruce A. Hunt, chairman of the Activities Committee, presented a report on the selections of the judges. In determining awards, the committee decided to create two classes for the local and county societies, based upon the population of the counties and the facilities of the organizations. Among the larger county groups, it was agreed the Lackawanna Society should receive the award. The judges were impressed by the awakening of a dormant group into an active society. The renovation of its headquarters, its service to the public and schools, and cooperation with civic and patriotic groups of the county in forwarding historic endeavors gave to Lackawanna county the Certificate of Merit. In this classification, the Berks and Chester County Historical Societies

¹ The remarks of Doctor Crittenden will be printed in the Year Book.

received honorable mention. The Berks group was recognized for its "Development Program" which included its recent membership drive and a complete change in society activities, aimed to serve the public in more useful manners. The Chester County Society received for the third time honorable mention for its activities. The Chester group was selected in view of its continued efforts to make the society one of the most active in the state and constant improvement of its facilities.

In the smaller county groups, the Bradford Society was selected to receive the award. Its cooperation with the schools in the study of local history led to this decision. For the honorable mentions, Columbia and Mifflin County Historical Societies were chosen. The Columbia Society was recognized for its lantern slide program and "News Sheet" and the Mifflin group for its continued effort to make all facilities available to the public without any admission charge.

Mr. Oliver S. Heckman presented the report of the Committee on Historical Society Publications. From the publications submitted three awards were made. The first to a local or statewide society which had published a bound volume during the year. This award was made to Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society for its publication entitled A Frontier Village - Pre-Revolutionary Easton. In making this award the society was congratulated on producing a book of attractive format and design, and because the content indicates original research that should be useful not only to Northampton county, its schools and libraries, but also to individuals. Honorable mention in this group was made to a volume sponsored by the Blair County Historical Society, entitled Military Services and Genealogical Records of the Soldiers of Blair County. The second award was made to a regional or state society for periodic or pamphlet publications. In this group the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society received

first place for its Quarterly Magazine. Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania received honorable mention. A third award was given to a local or county society for its periodic or pamphlet publication. It was agreed that for an all-round publication The Historical Review of Berks County published quarterly by the Historical Society of Berks County deserved first place. For honorable mention in this class the pamphlet entitled Azilum, published by the Tioga Point Museum and written by Dr. Elsie Murray, was selected. For the same honor the Bulletin of the Old York Road Historical Society was mentioned.

Committee on Resolutions

The following resolutions presented by Miss Frances Dorrance, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, were endorsed unanimously by the Federation:

WHEREAS, in the death of the Honorable John S. Fisher, one time Governor of the Commonwealth and President of this Federation, the State and people have lost a great man, whose integrity, ability and achievement made him an outstanding citizen and leader, and

WHEREAS, Governor Fisher's steady interest in the promotion of the preservation and study of Pennsylvania history gave an impetus and inspiration to the work of the Federation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution of appreciation and sympathy for the constituent societies and their membership be spread upon the minutes of the organization and a copy sent to his family.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies spread upon its minutes and transmit to the surviving relative its deep sorrow at the passing of "Charles Weirick, for many years secretary of Lebanon County Historical Society."

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies spread upon its minutes and transmit to the



surviving relative its deep sorrow at the passing of S. Fletcher Weyburn of Scranton, long distinguished in the work of our Federation.

WHEREAS, in years past it has been the established practice of the State Library to prepare and publish various series of documents from the State Archives known as the Pennsylvania Archives; and,

WHEREAS, there is now before the General Assembly a measure to appropriate the necessary money for publication of an index of these Archives already authorized;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Federation is of the opinion that the publication of further series of these Archives should be authorized and that the State Librarian be complimented upon his interest in this matter.

WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians are increasingly aware of the importance of preserving and recording our historic past, and

WHEREAS, the proper preservation and care of our governmental records both state and local is vital in this connection, and-

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania never has possessed a suitable archives building, or developed services comparable to those of sister states and essential to preserving its state records;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federation go on record as urging the Governor, the members of the Assembly and all others in a position to act upon this matter to consider (1) ways and means of improving the administration of the Archives Division of the State Library; (2) increasing the present space for proper storage of state archives; (3) providing for a central control and care of all state records; (4) consideration of the future construction of a suitable building in the State Capitol group to house the archival and historical functions of the state government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President is authorized to appoint a committee of three to cooperate with the Pennsylvania Library Association and the Pennsylvania Historical Association to study and report upon these problems.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies transmit to the General Assembly its endorsement of House Bill No. 144, known as the Fort LeBoeuf Bill, with an expression of its hope that the Bill may pass.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, representing over thirty thousand persons interested in the history of our great State, recommends the early passage of House Bill No. 609 and Senate Bill No. 496 making possible more adequate support by the counties of the several county historical societies of the State.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, representing over thirty thousand persons interested in the history of our great State, recommends the early passage of House Bill No. 610 and Senate Bill 497 making possible more adequate support by third class cities of the principal historical society in each of these cities.

WHEREAS, the arrangement by means of which the Pennsylvania Historical Commission has made available the use of its office as a headquarters for our statewide activities and allowed the Commission historian to serve as the secretary of our body has been of genuine assistance in promoting the best interests of local historical societies throughout the State;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies extends its grateful appreciation to the Commission and to Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Francis B. Haas, under whose Department the Commission functions, for the generous action in continuing this policy during the past year.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies commends the Most Reverend Bishop of Altoona, Richard T. Guilfoyle and his fellow workers for the energy which they have displayed in perpetuating the memory of Father Gallitzin, one of Pennsylvania's outstanding religious leaders.

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies firmly believes that Pennsylvania's notable history should be taught to school children;

THEREFORE, it notes with pride the appearance of Fortenbaugh and Tarman's Pennsylvania, Story of a Commonwealth and congratulates the authors on the successful completion of that adjunct to the teaching of Pennsylvania history in the schools.

WHEREAS, the study of local and county history is recognized as the logical basis of state and world history; and

WHEREAS, there are but few county histories available throughout the state of Pennsylvania;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federation urges the preparation, in mimeographed or printed form, of the histories of our several counties for study in the public schools, using the printed text where such is available for study; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the various constituent societies of our state Federation be urged to use their influence to further the preparation of county histories and to have such study of local and county history included in the curriculum of the public schools.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies endorses the proposed publication by the University of Pennsylvania Press of a volume of biographical sketches of outstanding Pennsylvania women prepared under the auspices of the Strawberry Mansion Committee representing the outstanding patriotic and civic groups of Philadelphia as a contribution of the utmost importance to Pennsylvania biographical history.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies strongly approves the proposal of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the WPA of the State to organize through the Pennsylvania Historical Survey a program designed to produce a series of publications bearing upon the heroic aspects of the history of the State such as will be available in the training centers as reading material for the soldiers in those centers and distributed throughout the State among civilians will contribute to national morale and pride in state and county during this period of crisis.

RESOLVED, that the Federation recommends to its constituent societies that as far as they may be able they see to it that copies of their publications be sent to the libraries of the various military training camps in their vicinity.

WHEREAS, the survey of all the cemeteries of all the state is a matter of recognized importance because of the historical and genealogical data which such surveys yield, and

WHEREAS, thus far only several of the counties of Pennsylvania have made such surveys; and

WHEREAS, the surveys of Veteran's graves have brought to light exceedingly valuable information, not otherwise available, and

WHEREAS, the maps and charts of the cemeteries thus far surveyed by the Veterans Bureau are available for use in the wider survey of all the graves of the various cemeteries;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federation heartily endorses the survey of all the cemeteries of the state, urges that such surveys of the various counties be undertaken, and that our local historical organizations sponsor these surveys in every county of the Commonwealth.

RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies approve the suggested organization throughout the State in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Education Association of Junior Historical Societies in the public schools, such societies to be affiliated on a statewide basis with our own Federation, and authorized the President to appoint a committee to cooperate with the Social Studies Section of the Education Association to promote this objective.

RESOLVED, that the Federation recommend to the constituent societies that in every community where it may be possible they take steps looking toward the better preservation of birth and death records particularly those in local public offices, such as mayors courts, and offices of aldermen and justices of the peace.

Report of the Legislative Committee

Mr. Charles Young, chairman, presented the report of the Legislative Committee. After considerable correspondence with members of the committee, two bills affecting historical societies were introduced in the Assembly.

Both of these bills were introduced in the House by Mr. Weingartner, the Representative from Lawrence County, and have passed the House and are now pending the Senate. The bill amending the third class city act has been referred to the Committee on Municipal Government in the Senate and has been designated as Senate Bill No. 497. The Bill amending the County Code has been referred to the Senate Committee on County Government. Mr. Young emphasized it would be helpful if members of the societies throughout the Commonwealth would use what influence they have with members of the Senate to have a favorable action taken on these bills. As chairman of the Committee, Mr. Young felt that if the Legislative Committee were made a standing committee of the Federation, it would have more time to consider the problems of historical societies and needed legislation, which would result in securing legislation that would be beneficial and promote the interests of historical societies of Pennsylvania.

Mr. M. H. Deardorff presented an address on "Cornplanter and His Indians," followed by colored motion pictures of the Cornplanter Seneca ceremonies in connection with the adoption of Governor James.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Wright reported for the Nominating Committee and the delegates unanimously agreed on the following selection of officials: Dr. Roy F. Nichols, Philadelphia, president; Merle H. Deardorff, Warren, first vice president; Harold E. Gillingham, Germantown, second vice-president; Charles H. Young, New Castle, third vice president; Gregg L. Neel, Pittsburgh, fourth vice president; John E. Potter, Pittsburgh, treasurer; Miss Helen Campion, Pittsburgh, assistant treasurer; and S. K. Stevens, Harrisburg, secretary. Dr. William Reitzel,

Philadelphia, and Mr. Robert Garland, Pittsburgh, were appointed as members of the Executive Committee with three year terms to 1944. Mr. Bruce A. Hunt was selected to represent the Federation on the Council of the Pennsylvania Historical Association.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.

S. K. Stevens, Secretary

